

QA-19
Collins' Gift
Church Hill vicinity
Private

18th century

Collins' Gift is an excellent example of an 18th century 2 1/2 story hall parlor plan house, a form that is relatively unusual and rarely survives intact. The most unusual feature of the house is the heavy summer beam framing visible in the first floor parlor. Other significant features include the glazed header Flemish bond brickwork, the fielded paneling and Federal mantel in the parlor, and the roof framing.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Collins' Gift

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side Pinder Hill Road, on John Powell Road (North Side)314 9/10/93

CITY, TOWN

Church HillX VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William M. Knight

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

RT#1, Box 176

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County CourthouseLiber #: CWC 68Folio #: 403

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-19

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Collins' Gift is located on the north side of Johnny Powell Road just west of the intersection with Pinder Hill Road, approximately two miles north of Church Hill.

The house faces south, across open fields to Johnny Powell Road. The original section is brick, three bays wide, 2 1/2 stories high and one room deep, with flush brick chimneys at opposing ends of the pitched gable roof. A two story frame addition dating to the latter part of the 19th century projects from the west gable. A cluster of late 19th and 20th century farm buildings stand to the west of the house.

The principal facade of the original house faces south. The brickwork is laid in glazed header Flemish bond above a plain water table and an English bond foundation. The door is located in the center on the first floor, flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. There are three 6/6 windows on the second floor and two 6/6 pitched roof dormers on the third floor. The door is set off by sidelights and a transom, but has been altered. A seam 14 inches to the right of

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

the east jamb indicates the original door was positioned to the right of center, directly below the off-set center window on the second floor. The eaves are finished with a box cornice, complex crown mold and a small bed mold. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, the dormers are relatively modern. A one story porch with chamfered square posts stretches across the front facade. The outline of earlier porch supports are readily apparent on the brick facade.

The east gable is laid in three-course bond above a plain water table and a stuccoed foundation. A belt course stretches across the gable at the second story eave line, similar to the Dyre Betton House in Centreville (QA-161, constructed in 1794). The upper gable wall is set back approximately two inches from the plane of the lower wall, and the belt course is corbeled to help disguise this difference. Two four-light windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable are the only openings in this wall. The front cornice returns at the corner, but the gable eaves are finished with tapered rakeboards.

Heavy applications of paint and whitewash make it difficult to identify the brick bonding on the rear

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

(north) facade, but it seems apparent that it is inconsistent. One section of English bond is clearly visible in the center of the facade, above a plain water table and stucco foundation. The door is centered on the first floor, flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. There are two 6/6 windows on the second floor, one above each first floor window. There are no dormers. The jambs of three of the four windows show evidence of size alterations.

A 20th century one-story frame addition covers the west two bays of the main house and the east bay of the 19th century frame wing. The latter structure covers the majority of the west gable end of the original house. The east wall of the wing is set back approximately 3 1/2 feet from the facade of the early house. The brickwork on this section of the gable is laid in English bond above a plain water table. Two four-light windows in the upper gable were blocked up when the wing was added.

The frame wing is two bays wide and two stories high, with a single flush brick stove chimney at the west end of the pitched gable roof.

The interior of the main house is laid out in a hall-parlor plan, with the larger hall to the east,

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

and an enclosed winder stair in each room. The plan has been modified somewhat, with the front door shifted to the west, now lining up with the interior partition. A small lobby entrance has been framed in, and the stair in the hall has been removed. Other alterations to this room include later flooring and a mantel and architrave trim dating to the latter half of the 19th century.

The west room or parlor has undergone few changes. The chimney projects from the center of the west gable, flanked on the left by an enclosed winder stair and on the right by a door to the wing. The stair partition and chimney breast are richly paneled. The four-panel door to the stairs and a three-panel door to the closet under the stairs have boldly raised panels with profiles matching the overmantel paneling. The closet door is hung on wrought H-L hinges; the door to the stairs has butt hinges replacing original H-L hinges. During the Federal period a mantel was added, covering the lower edge of the fielded paneling above the fireplace. The mantel is a beaded board surround with paneled pilasters, plain sideblocks and frieze and a complex shelf that breaks forward above the sideblocks. One unusual

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

feature of this room is the exposed framing visible in the ceiling of the parlor. A heavy hewn girt crosses the room immediately in front of the chimney, and an equally massive hewn summer beam runs from this girt across the parlor to the interior partition wall. The lighter joists are concealed above the ceiling.

The second floor is divided into three rooms. A large sleeping chamber is located to the east, above the first floor hall. There is a smaller sleeping chamber to the northwest and a stair hall to the southwest. The fireplace in the east chamber has been reworked and there is no mantel. A seam in the floor to the right of the chimney marks the location of the blocked stair. The ceiling joists have been exposed in this room. They run the full depth of the house and retain numerous wrought lathing nails from the original plaster ceiling. Curiously, the floor of this room is three inches higher than the floor of the two adjoining rooms to the west.

The original chimney in the northwest chamber has been removed and replaced with a brick stove flue. A beaded board partition separates this room from the stair hall. Early details include a beaded batten door with wrought latch between the chamber and the hall, a

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

two piece chairrail and beaded baseboard in the hall. The enclosed winder stair in the hall continues up to the attic.

The attic was originally finished and plastered. The plaster and knee walls have been removed, leaving the framing fully exposed. The common rafters are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge and rest on a flat false plate. The collars are half-dovetailed and pegged. Every other rafter pair is relatively lightweight and stops above the collar beam, similar to the roof framing system of the 18th century log house on the Mary Jo Bostic farm (QA-35). These rafter pairs were primarily intended to support the plaster walls and ceiling, not the load of the roof. The collars of these lighter rafter pairs are half-lapped and nailed with wrought nails. The kneewall studs have been removed but remain stored in the attic. Wrought lathing nails remain in the kneewall studs, rafters and collars. The majority of the original flooring has been removed and replaced with modern flooring, and was evidently used to repair and replace flooring on the first and second stories. It is interesting to note that the roof members are marked with Arabic numerals rather than the usual Roman numerals.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a brick partition wall. The arched chimney base has survived on the east gable wall but has been demolished on the west gable. The original bulkhead cellar entrance was located in the southwest corner of the west gable. When the frame wing was added the entrance was shifted to the right and is now reached by way of an interior stair in the wing.

QA-19

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Collins' Gift is an excellent example of an 18th century 2 1/2 story hall parlor plan house, a form that is relatively unusual and rarely survives intact. The most unusual feature of the house is the unusually heavy summer beam framing visible in the first floor parlor. Other significant details include the glazed header Flemish bond brickwork, the fielded paneling and Federal mantel in the parlor, and the roof framing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-19

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

6/20/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

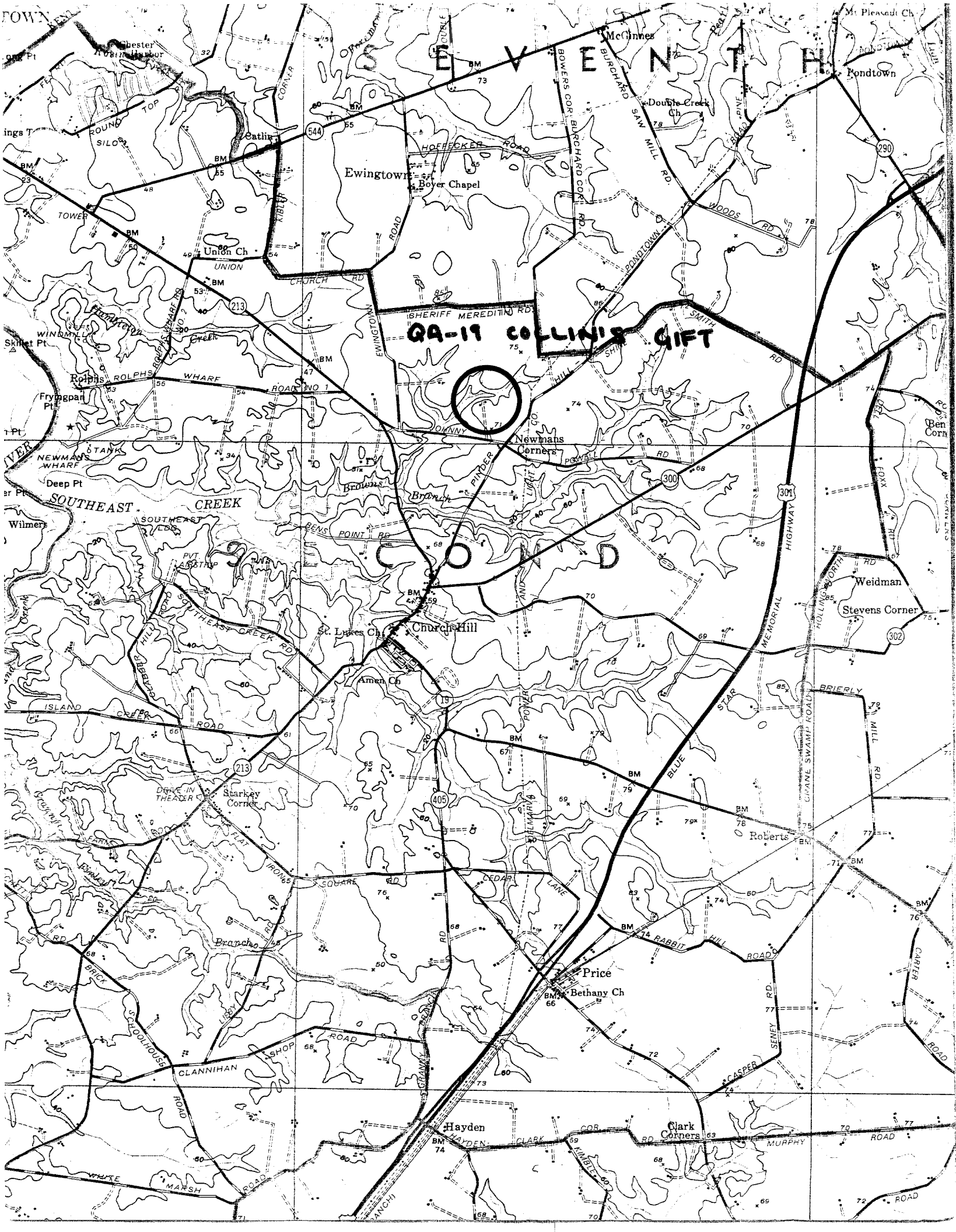
Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XI; Recorded August, 1979.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



QA-19
Collins' Gift, ruin

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT



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collins' Gift, ruin

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Spring/Summer 2003
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